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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Funding to Help Victims of Crime Now Available**

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) announced today grant applications for funding to help victims of crime are now being accepted. Nearly \$45.7 million is available in funding through the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant. Grant applications will be accepted thru 11:59 p.m. on July 1, 2016.

VOCA was established by the United States Congress in 1984 to supply funding to organizations providing direct services to victims of crime. VOCA is funded entirely by the collected revenue of federal crime fines, forfeitures, and special assessments. In 2015, ICJI awarded close to \$20 million in VOCA grants to more than 190 recipients.

VOCA funding focuses on efforts that respond to the emotional and physical needs of crime victims, assist in the stabilization of primary and secondary victims following victimization, provide victims direction in understanding and participating in the criminal justice system, and provide victims with a measure of safety and security. Supported programs include those working to assist victims of crime in the areas of elder abuse, child abuse and neglect, adults victimized as children, domestic violence, sexual assault, violent crimes, robbery, economic exploitation, and fraud.

Organizations eligible to receive funding include state, public, and nonprofit institutions whose mission is to provide services to victims of crime; criminal justice departments, such as law enforcement agencies, prosecutor's offices, courts, corrections departments, and probation/parole agencies; as well as organizations providing mental health support, legal assistance, and programs with a history of advocacy on behalf of domestic violence and sexual assault victims. Examples of organizations eligible to receive funding include domestic violence centers, rape crisis centers, child advocacy centers, women's bureaus, family justice centers, community antiviolence centers, adult protective services, and hospitals providing on-call sexual assault nurse examiners.

Allowable costs covered through VOCA include emergency and non-emergency legal and mental health assistance for crime victims; salaries, skills training, and related materials and travel for staff assisting crime victims; data systems and software, and professional services contracts for those providing legal, psychological, or interpretation assistance to crime victims; and immediate health and safety needs for victims such as hotline counseling, crisis intervention, and emergency shelter.

**ICJI is continually looking for new and innovative programs that support victims of crime. Past recipients, related programs, and those wishing to establish creative solutions to help victims in their communities are encouraged to apply. Please note, more than one application per organization is acceptable.**

For more information regarding Indiana's statewide resources available to assist victims of crime, please visit: [www.IN.gov/CJI](http://www.IN.gov/CJI), and click on the victim services link.

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